

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/045,586

Examiner

Jean M. Corrielus

Applicant(s)

MITCHELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to THE AMENDMENT FILED ON JANUARY 18, 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2, 4-13, 16-36, 38-40, 46-47, 50-54 and 56-61 RENUMBERED AS 1-48.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance              |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

JEAN M. CORRIELUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on January 18, 2008, in which claims 2, 4-13, 16-36, 38-40, 46-54 and 56-61 are presented for further examination.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank J. DeRosa (reg. no. 26,543) on February 12, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In the claim:**

Please cancel claims 48 and 49 without prejudice.

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46. (Currently Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

a computer system including a computer display device, a computer input device and a computer-readable medium, the computer system being coupled to access data stored on the computer-readable medium; wherein the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof;

wherein the computer system being programmed to access the medium and cause to be displayed ~~display~~ on the computer display device, in response to input from the computer input device, ~~the identity of~~ information identifying at least two parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other together with temporal information associated therewith, and in response to input from the computer input device selecting one of the identified parts displayed identity to access the medium and cause ~~that the one identified part whose identity was selected~~ to be displayed on the display device.

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51. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing an information collection stored on a computer readable medium using a computer coupled to access the information collection, the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof;

the method comprising:

inputting to the computer using a computer input device ~~the identity of~~ information identifying a part of the body of law and a date; and

in response thereto, the computer causing the computer display device to display ~~that the~~ identified part ~~whose identity was input to the computer and~~ which has temporal information encompassing the inputted date.

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52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 or 51, wherein the information collection includes a table of contents (TOC) having headings with which one or more parts of the body of law are associated, each heading being associated with temporal information indicating the applicability of parts associated with the respective heading, the method comprising:

displaying on the computer display device a heading and the temporal information associated therewith;

inputting to the computer using a computer input device a selection of displayed temporal information associated with a heading; and

in response thereto, displaying on the computer display device the part of the body of law in the displayed heading associated with the temporal information that is selected using the computer input device.

56. (Currently Amended) A method for encoding a computer readable medium with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the body of law comprising a plurality of topics and a plurality of parts, including parts that are different versions of each other, the method comprising creating in the one or more data structures:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic in a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of

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law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated;

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof; and

an association of information relating to each part or version of the body of law and the at least one topic with which the respective part or version is associated, ~~the method comprising storing the one or more data structures in the computer readable medium.~~

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Upon searching a variety of databases, the examiner respectfully submits that claims 2, 4-13, 16-36, 38-40, 46-47, 50-54 and 56-61 are allowable in light of the applicants' arguments and in light of the prior art made of record.

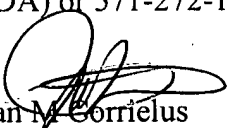
### *Conclusion*

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean M. Corrielus whose telephone number is (571) 272-4032. The examiner can normally be reached on 10 hours shift.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jean M. Gorriellus  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2162

February 11, 2008